

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A system comprising:

a directory of identifiers and metadata to a plurality of network services, wherein said

5 plurality of network services receive ~~XML~~ Extensible Markup Language (XML) inputs and produce XML outputs;

an engine, comprising a plurality of network service drivers, for receiving requests,

wherein said engine uses ~~using~~ said identifiers in said directory to direct said requests to access

said plurality of network services when requested, and ~~constructing~~ constructs a state storing

10 session for interfacing with said plurality of network services by using one of said plurality of

network services to transform an XML runtime model into said state storing session, wherein

said XML runtime model defines interaction between said state storing session and said plurality

of network services, wherein said state storing session uses ~~a driver~~ one of said plurality network

service drivers to interface with each of said plurality of network services via stateless network

15 protocols and said state storing session is configured from said metadata from said directory; and

a plurality of network service providers, accessible to said plurality of network service  
drivers, for providing network services identified in said directory.

2 (CANCELLED)

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3 (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED): The system of claim 1 wherein said metadata defines a  
schema of a network service's input and output interfaces.

4 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The system of claim 3 wherein said metadata further includes configuration parameters for configuring a network service driver associated with one of said plurality of network service services.

5 5 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The system of claim 1 wherein said plurality of network services are accessible via an API Application Program Interface (API).

6 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The system of claim 1 wherein said plurality of network services are ~~XML~~ Extensible Markup Language (XML) based network services.

10 7 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The system of claim 1 wherein each of said plurality of network service providers comprises an entity that is capable of receiving some information and providing a response.

15 8 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The system of claim 1 wherein said engine interprets said requests and determines what network services are needed, directs requests to ~~the~~ appropriate network services via said plurality of network service drivers, and builds responses into replies.

20 9 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The system of claim 1 wherein said requests comprise ~~HTTP~~ Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) requests.

10 (CANCELED)

11 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): ~~A method for accessing network services comprising:~~

A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein  
configured for accessing a plurality of network services, said computer program product  
5 comprising:

storing computer readable code configured to cause a computer to store identifiers and  
metadata of a plurality of network services in a directory, wherein said plurality of network  
services receive ~~XML~~ Extensible Markup Language (XML) inputs and produce XML outputs  
and said plurality of network services are provided by a plurality of network service providers;

10 providing computer readable code configured to cause a computer to provide requests to  
an engine, comprising a plurality of network service drivers, wherein said engine uses said  
identifiers to direct said requests to access said plurality of network services when requested; and

constructing computer readable code configured to cause a computer to construct a state  
storing session for interfacing with said plurality of network service services, wherein said state  
15 storing session is created by using one of said plurality of network services to transform an XML  
runtime model into said state storing session, wherein said XML runtime model defines  
interaction between said state storing session and said plurality of network services, wherein said  
state storing session uses ~~a driver~~ one of said plurality network service drivers to interface with  
said plurality of network services via stateless network protocols and said state storing session is  
20 configured from said metadata from said directory;

wherein interfacing with said plurality of network services interface and with said engine  
via a said plurality of network service drivers based on said requests.

12 (CANCELLED)

13 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 11 wherein said metadata defines a schema of a service's input and output interfaces.

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14 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 13 wherein said metadata further includes configuration parameters for configuring a network service driver associated with one of said plurality network service services.

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15 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 11 wherein said plurality of network services are accessible via an API Application Program Interface (API).

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16 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 11 wherein said plurality of network services are ~~XML~~ Extensible Markup Language (XML) based network services.

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17 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 11 wherein each of said a plurality of network service ~~provider~~ providers comprises an entity that is capable of receiving some information ~~a~~ and providing a response.

18 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 11 wherein said engine interprets said requests and determines what network services are needed,

directs request to the appropriate network services via said plurality of service drivers, and builds responses into replies.

19 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 11

5 wherein said requests comprise ~~HTTP~~ Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) requests.

20 (CANCELED)

21-105 (CANCELLED)

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